

Welcome to the Legislative Update for August 6, 2010

This e-mail newsletter is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. *Between legislative sessions, the Legislative Update is provided monthly.* Information provided is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

OVERVIEW

Budget Information

The **Joint Legislative Budget Committee** (JLBC) has posted the most recent ***Budget Status*** report. To access, go to:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/budgetstatus072810.pdf>

The **July 2010 Monthly Fiscal Highlights** from JLBC states: "The budgeted balance of \$48 million appears sufficient to offset the revenue shortfall, which will allow the state to end FY 2010 with a positive cash balance." That full report is available at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-jul-10.pdf>

The **JLBC July 2010 Tracking Arizona's Recovery** report is posted at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery.pdf>

Special Session

On Thursday, **Governor Brewer** called a **Ninth Special Session** of the 49th Legislature for Monday, August 9th to consider a legislative referendum for the November 2nd general election. The press release and the proclamation are provided here:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_080510_GovernorJanBrewerIssuesSpecialSessionCall.pdf

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_080510_Proc_SpecialSessionCall.pdf

Other News:

JLBC has posted regular fiscal notes on the ballot initiatives. ***Fiscal Impact Analysis of November 2010 Ballot Initiatives*** can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/10ballot.htm>

Information on candidates running for office can be found at the Secretary of State's website. For more information, go to:

<http://www.azsos.gov/election/2010/Primary/ElectionInformation.htm>

Voter information is posted at: <http://www.azsos.gov/>

For on-going updates from the Governor's Office, see *Latest News* at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/>

For on-going Senate and House information, check the press releases at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/PressReleases.asp>

If you have a particular perspective to share at any time, you can voice your opinions to:

- Governor's Office of Constituent Services at **602-542-4331**

Or toll-free at **800-253-0883**

- Or you may wish to contact the Legislators from your area. Locate your legislators by going to the Arizona State Legislature website <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: ***How do I find My Legislators?*** or by *following the instructions provided at both the **Senate and House Member links** at the website.*

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.5558

Older Americans' Job Opportunities Blueprint Act of 2010

Introduced on June 17, 2010 by Representative Gabrielle Giffords (Az-8), the bill is cosponsored by Representative Tom Latham (IA-4).

H.R.5558

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to:

(1) include as a member of a targeted group, for purposes of the work opportunity tax credit, a qualified older worker; and

(2) extend such credit through 2012. Defines "qualified older worker" as an individual who is age 55 or older and whose income, excluding unemployment compensation and certain veterans and social security payments, is not more than 400% of the federal poverty line.

Directs the Secretary of Labor to award a grant to establish and operate a National Resource Center on Aging and the Workforce to address issues on age and the workforce and to collect, organize, and disseminate information on older workers.

On 6/17/2010, the bill was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor.

Other Federal News:

On Thursday, the Senate voted to extend funding to state Medicaid programs; the House is returning Tuesday for a vote.

Kaiser Health News' Daily Report regarding the passage of the state aid bill:

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Daily-Reports/2010/August/06/Senate-Vote-On-Medicaid-Aid.aspx>

From Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a *Health Policy Brief* regarding extension of federal Medicaid funding.

<http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/65908.pdf>

On July 27th, the House Committee on Financial Services passed the *Public Housing Reinvestment and Tenant Protection Act of 2010*. H.R. 5814 includes provisions to fund training for public housing residents to become home health and personal care aides.

For specific information on any federal legislation, enter the bill number or description under *Search Bill Summary & Status* on the **Thomas** website: <http://www.thomas.gov> .

To read about current activity and legislation in Congress, see the **Current Activity** section and the **Weekly Top Five** in the right column of the Thomas homepage.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has announced the availability of a new toolkit that teaches staff working in senior living communities how to recognize and take steps to help someone at risk of suicide. More information and access to the toolkit can be found at:

<http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/publications/allpubs/SMA10-4515/>

From the **National Council on Aging (NCOA)**:

Information regarding the Senate Appropriations Committee proposed FY11 funding for Older Americans Act programs:

<http://www.ncoa.org/news-ncoa-publications/aging-news/committee-boosts-caregiver.html>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services:

HHS recently announced \$159 million to Support Health Care Workforce Training;

For more information, go to:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/08/20100805a.html>

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services:

CMS recently announced grant funding to help support community-based alternatives to institutional care for Americans with disabilities during recognition of the *20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act*. To read the announcement, go to:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/07/20100726a.html>

The National Alliance for Caregiving is seeking family caregivers of Veterans for a new study with the intent to improve services for caregivers of Veterans. Learn about the study and how to register to participate at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/TheNationalAllianceforCaregiving.pdf>

From the **National Eye Institute (NEI)**

NEI has announced the 2011 cycle of the Healthy Vision Community (HVCA) program that provides up to \$10,000 in seed money to nonprofit and community-based organizations to support grassroots eye health education efforts. For more information, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/HealthyVisionCommunityAwardsProgram.pdf>

July 30th marked the **45th Anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid**. **July 14th** marked the **45th Anniversary of the Older Americans Act**.

National Association of State Units on Aging NASUA announced a name change:

<http://www.nasua.org/pdf/Homepage/NASUAD%20press%20release.pdf>

Information & Resources:

WHAT: Enhancing Physical, Cognitive & Social Function in Older Adults

WHEN: Wednesday, August 11, 2010, Crowne Plaza Phoenix, 2532 W. Peoria Avenue, Phoenix 85029

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AzGSSummerConfeBrochure.pdf>

WHAT: Primary Care for Better Air: Asthma Trigger Management for Primary Care Providers

WHEN: August 21, 2010, Tubac Golf Resort, 1 Ave de Otero, Tubac, AZ 85646; **Registration deadline is August 13th**.

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AsthmaConferenceBrochure.pdf>

WHAT: Nineteenth Annual Elder Issues Conference *Creating Caring Communities for Seniors, Helping seniors Help Themselves*; sponsored by Northern Arizona Council of Governments, Area Agency on Aging

WHEN: October 6, 2010; High Country Conference Center, Flagstaff, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/SaveTheDate.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov . Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Note: Between regular legislative sessions, the Legislative Update is provided monthly.

Thank you!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging